(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of BPL families expected to be benefited consequently?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Government is examining the possibility of extending one time financial assistance to cover the security deposit for one LPG cylinder and one Pressure Regulator to BPL families for converting from kerosene to LPG usage. The scheme is still in a conceptual stage.

**Gas exploration by OVL**

2123. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consortium led by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has abandoned its plan for exploration of oil from the Farsi block in Iran due to high sulphur content in the crude which makes commercial production unviable;

(b) whether the consortium is considering the option to retain the block for possible gas production;

(c) if so, whether the Farsi block is assessed to have adequate gas reserves to justify the investment by the consortium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No Sir. High Sulphur Content is not the reason for the oil field to be non commercial. ONGC Videsh limited (OVL) led consortia consisting of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) has submitted a Feasibility Report for the oil discovery based on techno-economic considerations to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on 26th November, 2008.

(b) to (d) Commerciality of the gas find of Fazad-B gas field of Farsi Block established by the OVL led consortia has been accepted by NIOC. This Gas Initial In-Place (GIIP) is estimated to be 12.5 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). Master Development Plan (MDP) to develop the field is under finalization in consultation with NIOC. Preliminary estimated Investment as per MDP would be about USD 5.5 billion for sales gas option wherein Gas production is contemplated for a period of 30 years.

**Bid by oil PSU in Gulf region**

2124. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Technip and a well-known and established company in the field of engineering technology and project management for oil and gas industry world-wide, has recently announced in October, 2009 that in the coming six to nine months projects worth $21 billion would be awarded in Gulf region; and

(b) if so, the public sector companies like Engineers India Ltd. similarly recognized organisations, who have developed state-of-the-art capabilities in oil and gas industry, would be encouraged to compete for their relevant fields of activities or even for turn-key projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Engineers India Limited is aware of the projects which are coming up in Middle East region and the announcement made by Technip that projects upto US$21 billion will be awarded in near future in UAE region. These are all EPC contracts wherein the size of each package is US$ 1 billion plus.

(b) Although, EIL has not executed any EPC project overseas till date, however, we are examining the above opportunities and finding out ways and means to pre-qualify for the same.

**Recycled blocks in NELP**

2125. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recycled blocks were included in the eighth round of auction under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); and

(b) what was the response for such blocks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 38 recycled blocks offered in the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), bids were received for 21 blocks.

**Auction under NELP**

2126. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many blocks have been auctioned in the eight rounds of auctions under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) of them how many are deep sea blocks and how many are on-shore blocks;

(c) whether it is a fact that the most of the blocks have been won by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or their joint venture (JVs); and

(d) if so, whether it defeats the purpose of NELP?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered. Bids were opened on 12.10.2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. The evaluation of bids is underway.